

CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

# CUMTUX

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# CUMTUX

CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
QUARTERLY Vol. 12, No. 1—Winter 1991-92

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COVER: A pleasant winter outing in a one-horse sleigh on the snow-covered streets of Astoria, at Eighth and Duane in front of the Flavel House circa 1910. Riding in the sleigh were "Emma and Mrs. Donnerberg." (CCHS photo #5034-200)

Astorian Printing Co.

CUMTUX: Chinook jargon:

"To know . . . acknowledge . . . to inform."



# CLATSOP'S Past

## Arthur B. Bullay

Arthur Benjamin Bullay was born in Dalston, in the Hackney District in the County of Middlesex, England on June 22, 1872, the son of Benjamin Bulley and Anne Warren Folkard Bulley. The spelling of his surname was changed when he arrived in the United States. He went to Montreal, Quebec at the age of 16 where he worked on the reservation and married an Iroquois Indian. They had two children, Florence Louisa and Arthur Benjamin.

Arthur B. Bullay was first listed in R. L. Polk's city directories for Astoria in 1920-21 (at 33 1st), then in 1925 (at 50 W. Astor), but not in 1931. He was an arcman for Pacific Power and Light Company. The photograph (right) shows Arthur with a typical arc light of that time.

The other photo, taken in 1920, is of the barge named *Go-Get* that Arthur Bullay was building near the present site of the Bayside Sentry Grocery store at Smith Point. The vessel was intended for ferry service between Astoria and Chinook (Item from the *Astoria Budget*, July 17, 1920, page 5).

*The photographs are courtesy of Astorian, Maxine Gaither Barrick, granddaughter of Arthur B. Bullay.*



# 1814 Tombstone Oldest in NW

By Liisa Penner

THE OLDEST GRAVESTONE in the Northwest now occupies a place of honor in Gallery I of the Heritage Museum, only a few feet from its original location marking the grave of Donald M. McTavish who drowned in the Columbia River on May 22, 1814. His burial was in the then Fort George (Astoria) cemetery, near what is now the northeast corner of 16th and Exchange Streets in Astoria. During the years between its original and present location, McTavish's stone was uprooted and spirited off to several other locations and at one time was the subject of a custody battle between the Astoria city council and the Oregon Historical Society.

This earliest Northwest tombstone is not only important for its age, but also because it is a tangible reminder of those fur traders and trappers who came to the West Coast a whole generation before the pioneer families rolled across the plains in their wagon trains. More than time separated these two groups: their lifestyles were totally different. Historians from the latter group downplayed the achievements of the fur traders and condemned their way of life. Donald M. McTavish, proprietor of the North West Company and Governor of Fort George (later known as Astoria), lived by a set of rules that were incomprehensible to many of the later settlers.

## Brought Jane Barnes

McTavish arrived at Fort George on April 17, 1814. He was entertained during the thirteen months voyage from England by the barmaid, Jane Barnes, his lovely blonde mistress. Planning to travel overland to Montreal, his stay at Fort George was expected to be brief.



"In Memory of D. McTAVISH, aged 42 years, drowned crossing this river May 22, 1814."

Realizing the barmaid was unable to accompany him on that trip, he arranged for her subsequent passage to England by ship and turned responsibility for her over to Alexander Henry, Jr. of Fort George. McTavish's attention turned elsewhere and several days later he was dallying with a Chinook Indian woman. On May 22nd, 1814, both Donald McTavish and Alexander Henry, Jr., along with several other men, were drowned while enroute in an open boat in rough water from Fort George to the ship, *Isaac Todd*.

Nearly a century later, in 1910, a writer for the *Roseburg Plain Dealer* (whose article was reprinted in an Astoria newspaper) summed up his view of these early fur-trade people waspishly: "The McTavishes were in no sense harbingers of civilization or the advance guard of civilization. They



were rather the rear guard of exceeding barbarism. They and the company they represented were the most dangerous and persistent foes the real pioneers had to deal with."

A more humorous view was expressed by Kenneth W. Porter who said: "It may be remarked for the benefit of those moralistically minded who might be inclined to see the hand of God, rebuking the violation of certain of the commandments, in this catastrophe [referring to the drowning of McTavish and his men], that it is evident from the journal of one of the victims that a not insignificant tidal wave would have been necessary to deal adequately with these particular sins in the vicinity of Fort George."

### **Second Burial at Fort George**

Ironically, what was perhaps the first recorded Christian funeral service in what is now Oregon took place over the grave of Donald McTavish. Two days after drowning, his body had washed ashore in the area of what is now Long Beach, Washington and was first interred there.

In Peter Corney's journal of September 27, 1814, he recorded: "I was therefore dispatched in the schooner-boat [*Dolly*] to bring the body of Mr. McTavish to the fort; which was done accordingly, and the corpse interred with funeral ceremonies. Captain Robson read the burial service; the coffin was lowered into the grave, which being enclosed all around with paling, a kind of tombstone was erected."

The bodies of McTavish's companions in death were retrieved from the banks of the river and buried near him at the Fort George cemetery northeast of the fort close to the beach of the Columbia River. (When John M. Shively platted out his townsite thirty years later, this area became known as Block 120 and is now bounded by Duane and Exchange, 16th

and 17th Streets. In 1904-05 the Astoria city hall was built on the west end of Block 120 on lots 5 and 6, and is now the Heritage Museum owned by the Clatsop County Historical Society. The old armory next door was built later on the rest of the block over the top of a large portion of the old Fort George cemetery.)

### **Remains Moved in 1878**

In April 1878, Ferdinand Ferrell, the city sexton, put a notice in the newspaper that he was going to be removing bodies from the cemetery by the Catholic Church to Hillside Cemetery. This was perhaps when the body of Donald McTavish was moved to Hillside Cemetery and it is here where his body probably remains today.

Although one account says McTavish's body was removed from a cemetery "behind" the Catholic Church on the southeast corner of 14th and Irving Streets, other accounts state that the body was removed from the Fort cemetery to Hillside Cemetery on Niagara and 15th Streets. Indicating the latter is true is an account in the newspaper from May 1878 that McTavish's grave and that of another man who also died in 1814 (possibly Alexander Henry, Jr.) were still at the Fort cemetery.

### **Hillside Cemetery Gravesite**

The exact location of McTavish's grave in Hillside Cemetery is now a mystery, although it was a popular stop for out-of-town visitors to Astoria before the turn of the century. One visitor, in April 1887, was very impressed by the age of the McTavish sandstone marker and wrote about it in the newspaper. Two 1890s visitors also mentioned the deteriorated condition of the cemetery.

But Astorians were not sufficiently moved to maintain or improve the cemetery. After further burials within the Astoria city limits were prohibited in 1897, conditions at Hillside Cemetery worsened. Blackberries, fern and alder

covered the graves. Cows were allowed to graze on the cemetery, and the ground sank over decaying coffins. It was a deplorable scene for those who viewed it.

One writer from Alameda, California expressed his dismay at looking at the ruined cemetery: "My anticipation of finding some pioneer graves was not realized owing to the fact that the oldest, having had wooden headboards with painted inscriptions had completely decayed ... All we know is that they rest from weary toil, 'unwept, unhonored and unsung.'"

### **Headstone Taken to Portland**

It was discovered in December of 1903 that the McTavish headstone was missing from Hillside Cemetery. Suddenly Astorians awoke from their lethargy and became outraged when they learned six months later, that the headstone was in the Portland city hall, placed there by Secretary George W. Himes of the Oregon Historical Society.

James W. Welch, president of the Astoria Chamber of Commerce, led the movement to return the headstone. Welch, who came to Oregon in 1846 as a small boy with his parents, James and Nancy Dickerson Welch, treasured the mementos of Astoria's past. He urged the Astoria city council to act quickly to direct the city attorney and the public property committee to take the necessary steps to regain possession of the stone.

Shocked by the charges made by James W. Welch in the newspaper, George H. Himes wrote the following rebuttal published in *The Oregonian*, May 5, 1904, under the heading,

### **Monument Not Stolen**

"PORTLAND, May 4. — (To The Editor) — Returning to the city yesterday at a late hour, after an absence of two days, I discovered that an attempt had been made by James W. Welch, president of the Astoria Chamber of Commerce, to

make it appear that I had a hand, at some time in a very culpable transaction, from his point of view, in connection with the 'Donald McTavish monument,' being charged in simple language, with having stolen it. While I have no desire to shirk any responsibility in regard to this matter, and admit that the monument in question is in the custody of the Oregon Historical Society, an organization duly incorporated to hold 'all material and property collected and owned by it in perpetual trust for the people of the State of Oregon,' the man, or set of men who say I 'stole' it do not tell the truth, and I challenge them to produce any evidence in support of the statement.

"A gentleman of unquestioned character, a resident of Astoria for a number of years, wrote me about two years ago [1902] to the effect that the monument was at the top of the hill in the old cemetery south of the city, in a neglected place in a perfect tangle of weeds, grass and brush, practically in an open field, as cattle were feeding all around it, asking if I, as custodian of the effects of the Historical Society, would give it a place, saying, among other things, that unless some such disposition was made of it, it would not be long before it would be destroyed, as it was apparent by the way it was neglected that the people of Astoria cared but little for it. Since that was the condition of the monument when last seen by me in that cemetery, some three years before [1899], I had no hesitation in saying to the aforesaid gentleman, who shall be nameless for the time being at least, although he did not exact any pledge of secrecy, to 'send it along.' A few weeks later the monument was received, and fully 50,000 people have seen it since, all becoming more or less familiar with its history and its relation to Astoria and to Oregon, multitudes of whom, would never have heard of the 'city by the sea' otherwise ...

"At this point I would like to ask what greater proprietary or legal right has Astoria, or any citizen thereof, to the McTavish monument than the citizens of Oregon in general? They did not erect it, and have not taken care of it. Its original location in 1814 was over the remains of the unfortunate McTavish, with those of four of the men who lost their lives with him, which were 'interred in a handsome spot behind the northeast portion of Fort George.' It has been removed from that spot twice at least, if not three times, and at the present time has no historical significance in connection with any one particular spot of land in Oregon above another..."

### **Stone Returned to Astoria**

George Himes agreed to return the monument, but in exchange imposed some demands on Astorians. Astorians were to raise a "liberal fund," and he expected to see Mr. Welch's name at the head of the list of contributors, the money to be used for the care of the headstone. Among his other demands was that a granite marker should be substituted for the original and be placed close to the 1814 grave of Donald McTavish by the Astoria city hall, and that the original sandstone marker be protected.

The return of the McTavish headstone was announced in an article in the *Daily Astorian Budget* of May 12, 1904:

"Astoria has the Donald McTavish monument back again and it will now probably be prized more highly than ever before. In this connection it is well to remember that we have a number of other relics of historical interest that should be taken care of. It was not long ago we permitted the building that was the first custom house on the Pacific Coast to be torn down in place of having it preserved. There is still standing the first Post Office building west of the Rocky Mountains and it is rapidly falling into decay. [It was not preserved either,

but a monument now marks the spot where this building once stood on the east side of 15th Street between Exchange and Franklin.] Besides these there are other things of interest that ought by right to be marked or preserved instead of allowing them to be destroyed or packed away in pieces of relic hunters."

### **Placed by Astoria City Hall**

Four days later, J. Q. A. Bowlby, representing the Chamber of Commerce asked the city council to set aside the southeast corner of lot 5, block 120, Shively's Astoria, for the location of the McTavish monument. This was the area off Exchange Street between the Astoria city hall and what was later the armory building. In September 1905, a committee of the Astoria Chamber of Commerce secured an iron netting to surround the McTavish headstone. L. E. Selig headed the committee that raised \$40 to pay for the cost of placing and protecting the monument.

It had been the intention of James W. Welch that the stone would be placed inside the Astoria city hall for safekeeping, with a substitute memorial marker placed by the original gravesite. But contrary to the wishes of both Himes and Welch, the original headstone was placed outside the city hall on the grass (where Charles Haddix remembers seeing it in the late 1920s, enclosed by a rigid wire netting).

### **Stone at "Fort Astoria"**

Years later when "Fort Astoria" was replicated at the northwest corner of 14th and Exchange Streets, the tombstone was moved again, to this area a block and a half west of where it had been by the old Astoria city hall. It remained at the "Fort Astoria" location for many years. (The writer recalls making a hurried visit to this location one dark night in the early 1950s, attempting to trace the lettering on the stone for a report on Donald McTavish due at school the next day.)



## Home in Heritage Museum

Realizing that this treasured 1814 sandstone monument needed more protection from the weather, members of the Clatsop County Historical Society moved it "back home" to its present place of honor and respect in Gallery I of the Heritage Museum at 16th and Exchange Streets, which is close to Donald McTavish's original grave. Former secretary of the Oregon Historical Society, George H. Himes, and pioneer John W. Welch would both be pleased with this location inside the building, which was their wish. Each year, thousands of visitors view and appreciate the monument.

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*Liisa Penner holds a master's degree in anthropology from the University of Oregon and is an author and devoted researcher of Clatsop County history. Her books include "Astoria in the 1870's", "The Chinese in Astoria, Oregon 1870-1880," "The Fire Department in Astoria, Oregon in the 1870's," and "Truman P. Powers of Astoria, Oregon, 1803-1883." She is also the author of "How to Find Your Clatsop County Ancestors" and several Clatsop County genealogical publications. Her previous Cumtux articles were "My Mother, Helmi Mellin" (Winter 1989) and "John Thomas, Bard of Clatsop" (Winter 1990). Another article by Liisa is in this current issue: "Clatsop County's First Finn, Charles J. Newman."*

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# The Pioneer Hobson Family

By Marjorie Halderman

**W**ILLIAM HOBSON, his two sons, John and Richard, and three daughters Mary, Ann and Emma came to Oregon in 1843, being members of the first large immigration. William was born in Derbyshire, England on June 28, 1797, and died at Astoria on August 10, 1879. John was born in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, England on December 4, 1824 and died at Astoria on December 6, 1896. Richard was born in Derbyshire, England on October 23, 1829 and died at sea on the barkentine *Jane A. Falkenberg* on May 24, 1878. The daughters were Mrs. (Mary) Doak, Mrs. Clement (Ann) Bradbury, and Mrs. Ninian (Emma) Eberman.

William was a hatter in the old country, and having lost his wife by death, sought a new region to bring up his children under better conditions than his means would allow in England. He determined to emigrate to America and chose Wisconsin as his objective. In order to cross the ocean, he found it necessary to join a party of Mormons who were going under the leadership of a bishop and were going in a ship chartered by him. Leaving Liverpool January 11, 1843, they reached St. Louis in March following, but here found progress impeded by ice in the river. While waiting several weeks for the ice to break up, they made the acquaintance of Miles Evers who was one of the movers in the organization of a company to go to Oregon. The father was persuaded by Evers to join the train.

## Dr. Marcus Whitman

Dr. Marcus Whitman was also there and confirmed their resolution. John Hobson, then a young man of nineteen,



William Hobson  
1797—1879

well remembered Dr. Whitman and the assistance he rendered in procuring for them a dog, and later at the Kaw mission, a yoke of cattle. They exchanged a rifle for the yoke of oxen, and another gun for a horse.

The rendezvous was at Westport, Missouri. They arrived there on May 10, 1843 and spent about a week collecting provisions and other necessities for the trip.

John Hobson remembered the efforts of Dr. Whitman at crossing the Platte River. The danger of the cattle stopping and sinking in the quicksand was avoided by chaining the entire train together and passing on 'en masse.' A crossing of the Snake River was effected the same way, but at this point Miles Evers was drowned. Romance enters here, for his widow later married William Hobson.

## **Ulysses S. Grant**

John vividly remembered another experience, and wrote: "After leaving Ft. Hall, our wagon broke down and we were in a dilemma, so father and I took the mules and drove back to the Fort, where Captain U. S. Grant heard our story. He invited us to look around and see if we could find anything of use to us and to help ourselves. Fortunately, we found a pair of wagon wheels. So discarding the broken ones, and with a temporary wagon tongue, we drove on to overtake our party, which we did early in the evening."

### **Arrival at Waillatpu**

With such companions as Dr. Whitman, the Applegates, Nesmiths and Waldos, the experiences of the long trip embraced a wide variety of details. Eventually they arrived at Waillatpu (near Walla Walla, Washington) in November, 1843.

### **400 Miles in a Canoe**

The travelers were greatly disappointed to find the grist mill burned. But they procured a little wheat and made flour in their coffee mills. By advice of Dr. Whitman, they left their cattle on the range (for the winter). Making a large canoe from a cottonwood tree, and with an Indian guide provided by the kind doctor, they proceeded down the Walla Walla River. They made the descent down the Columbia River, 400 miles, in this frail craft. At Celilo Falls their experiences were thrilling, but terrifying. A canoe following them was overturned and one man was drowned.

### **Arrival at Ft. Vancouver**

They arrived at Fort Vancouver the last of November and were generously accommodated by Dr. McLoughlin with goods, for which they gave their notes. Leaving their families at the Fort, a small company composed of George Summers, Thomas Owens (father of Dr. B. A. Owens-Adair), Mr. Holly, Mr. Haragus

and John Hobson went on down the Columbia River on a nine-day trip in their canoe, looking for land claims.

### **Clatsop Plains Land Claims**

Stopping at Chinook on the north shore, they met with the loss of their craft by its being dashed upon the beach by the high tide. They were put across by the Indians to Tansy Point on the south shore, where they found Solomon Smith (for whom Smith Lake is named), Mr. Tibbets and Eldridge Trask of Wyeth's expedition and ship, and William T. Perry. At Astoria (or Fort George, as the Hudson's Bay post there was then known) there was only one American, Mr. Shively.

After selecting their claims they returned for their families and brought them down the river in a bateau. The trip took five days and they arrived at Astoria on Christmas eve, 1843. There they camped on the shore of a little cove.

### **Canoes Sank with Flour**

This experience illustrates the hardships of early times. After crossing Youngs Bay to Tansy Point, their canoes sank and all their flour became wet. They saved this dough by baking it, and had hardtack for months.

### **Cattle Drive to Clatsop**

During the summer of 1844, John Hobson returned to Walla Walla for the cattle. They were collected from Dr. Whitman's range and brought over the Cascade Mountains north of Mt. Hood, crossed over the Willamette River to Linnton, driven over the Portland hills, across the Tualatin River and through the gap by way of Chehalem Mountain to the riffles of the Yamhill at the farm of Amos Cook, and over the Coast range to the ocean, then north past Tillamook along the coast to the Clatsop Plains home.

### **"Matter of Living"**

John Hobson spoke of the "matter of living" in those early days, which was



accomplished only with much labor. Seed potatoes were purchased on time from James Birnie, then the Hudson's Bay Company representative at Astoria. It was not until 1846 that this return could be rendered. Wheat had to be taken 140 miles by canoe, to Oregon City, to be ground into flour.

### **"Land of Milk and Honey"**

William Hobson later had one of the show places on Clatsop Plains. He had sent back to England for many seeds, among them the Scotchbroom. He planted berry bushes, had bees and honey, and built a summer house. He wrote to friends in the old country that he had "surely found the land of milk and honey." In a letter dated October 24, 1852, to a relative in England he wrote: "I built a new house about three years ago. It is thirty-eight feet long by thirty-two wide, two stories high and a cellar under the whole building. I paid five dollars per day for every day's work I had done on it. I had men at work on it at one time that was nearly ten pounds per day wages. (For) lumber I paid from fifty to eighty per thousand feet. The house has cost over four thousand dollars, and is not finished."

### **William Hobson's Children**

In the same letter, he describes what happened to his children in the Oregon country: "Well, cousin William, you will want to hear something how we are getting along since you heard from me.

"Mary [Doak] died about three years ago and I have a little girl [Elizabeth Doak] she left.

"Ann is married and has two children. They live about forty miles up the river. They have 640 acres of land and he is a good husband. Ann weighs over 200 pounds. [Ann married Clement A. Bradbury on March 8, 1850 and their children were Bethenia, Clarisa and Clement.]

"Emma is married but no children; has the same quantity of land. I am living

with them this summer. [Emma married Ninian A. Eberman in July 1850 and their children were Frances, William, Mary, Frank, Philo, Richard F., Willis, Kate A., Henry B., George F., James L., Ninian and Nelly.]

"John is married; no children. He has got the best house and farm on Clatsop Plains. He is worth more than ten thousand dollars. [John married Diana Owens on October 23, 1851 and their children were Ada, Maude, Frank and Harry.]

"Richard is here with us at present. He has been up the river these last two or three years hunting himself a wife, and got disappointed. [Richard later married Kate Kaziah Young in January, 1853, and their children were James R., Richard F., William, Lawson, May and Henrietta.]

### **Mined Gold in California**

He continues: "Well cousin, I suppose you want to hear something about the gold mines. John and Richard went to the mines... They worked three or four months in the mines and made nearly four thousand dollars each. John bought a band of cattle before he left San Francisco, from a man that had been living on these plains. The cattle were here. He bought them cheap. Richard and two more men bought a small schooner to run the Sacramento River. There were then but one or two small boats running that river. They gave eight thousand dollars for her. Richard sold his share out on credit and waited in San Francisco all that summer for his money, but never got it. He lost all. He has been into the mines in Oregon, but made nothing. The mines in Oregon are doing pretty well, but there are such quantities of people there they cannot all get rich. There are a few, now and then; that makes a great raise.

### **Influx of Immigrants**

"There is a large immigration coming in this year. This country is settling up very fast. It is a different looking country

now to what it was when we first came into it. We brought the first wagons that ever came into Oregon, and now they are coming by the thousands every year... I was greatly surprised and very much grieved to hear of your dreadful privations and starvations and vexations... Oh that you was here; you would live as happy as your Queen Victoria!" William's address was: Lexington, Clatsop Plains, Oregon Territory, North America.

### **Richard Hobson**

Richard Hobson, the father of Mrs. Henrietta Prael, remained with his father working on the farm for several years. He later married and had his own farm near Skipanon landing. There he built a small boat which he operated between Astoria and Skipanon (there being no Warrenton at that time), doing a general freight and passenger business. A few years later he engaged in bar and river piloting, and moved his family to Astoria, their home located on the beach on property now occupied by the Standard Oil Company.

Captain Richard Hobson continued to operate on the Columbia River until failing health compelled him to seek a dryer climate in the Sandwich (Hawaiian) Islands. He died at sea while returning to Oregon in 1878.

### **John Hobson**

John Hobson saved his money from the mines and for \$3,000 purchased the quitclaim of Perry, the handsome place later owned by Mr. Wingate. John was induced to sell it for \$3,500 to Governor Gaines, who was delighted with the sea beauties of the region. The Governor, however, losing his wife by a distressing accident, sold it back to John with a thousand dollars advance. This was the "Pioneer House" across from the Astoria Golf and Country Club.



**John Hobson**  
1824—1896

John Hobson married Diana, Thomas Owen's eldest daughter who was wont to be called the Clatsop belle, for she was indeed a beautiful young woman. They made their home on this place for many years.

**Diana Owens Hobson**  
"The Clatsop Belle"  
(CCHS photo #5697-00H)







*(Above) The Pioneer John Hobson house on Clatsop Plains.  
(CCHS photo #894-960)*

*(Below) The Hobson-Halderman house on Bond Street, home of the author.  
(CCHS photo #3436-960)*





In December, 1863, John moved his family to Astoria to the home he had built of Port Orford cedar. The land had been a forest up to that time.

### **Cattle Driving Trips**

John engaged in the wholesale and retail butcher and grocery business with Daniel K. Warren (for whom Warrenton is named), under the name of Hobson and Warren. The cattle for the business were brought from the Willamette valley to Tillamook, then north around Neahkahnie Mountain, and on to Astoria.

During one of those cattle driving trips, John Hobson rediscovered the cannon for which Cannon Beach is named. It was buried in the sandy bank of a stream [Shark Creek] north of Arch Cape. [See "The Schooner Shark's Cannon," by Jim Dennon, in *Cumtux*, Vol. 9, No. 3, Summer, 1989.]

### **Hobsonville Cannery**

In June of 1870, William wrote to a nephew in England: "Emma is living on the [Clatsop] plains and doing well. They have eight children... You can come now to Oregon in about three weeks, and it took us just one year."

Associated with John in establishing one of the first salmon canneries on the lower Columbia River were John Badollet, Henry Aiken, George Warren and C. Leinenweber. Subsequently, John built a cannery at what was named Hobsonville, on Tillamook Bay.

### **Organized Astoria National Bank**

John Hobson was appointed Collector of Customs for Oregon by President Grover Cleveland, in 1885.

John's last business venture was in 1890, when he and Daniel K. Warren organized the Astoria National Bank. Daniel Warren was President, and John Hobson was Vice-President.

### **John Hobson Family**

John Hobson and his first wife, Diana, were the parents of four children: Ada (Mrs. C. W. Fulton), Maude (Mrs. G. C. Fulton), Frank and Harry. Ada died in 1942 at the age of 83, and Maude in 1949 at age 85. [See "The Fulton Family," by Marjorie Halderman which appeared in *Cumtux*, Vol. 8, No. 2, Spring, 1988.]

On May 24, 1876, John Hobson was married to Anna K. Reeves who had been born in San Francisco on October 31, 1852. They had three children: Edwin (b.1877), Reba Anita (b.1879) and Bertha E. (b.1882). Anna died in Nordhoff, California in 1898 at the age of 46 years.

Reba (Mrs. W. A. Twelves) lived at Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, England where she died in 1973 at age 94. She had a son, daughter, and two grandchildren in England.

Bertha's children are John Halderman of Durham, North Carolina, and the author, Marjorie Halderman who lives in the Hobson-Halderman family home at 469 Bond Street, Astoria (entered on the Register of Historic Homes). The author's parents, Bertha died in 1942 at the age of 58, and Charles W. Halderman died in 1970 at age 89.

### **Reba Hobson's Memories**

Reba (Hobson) Twelves had an excellent memory of her childhood in Clatsop County, and of her life in the pioneer Hobson house. The following is excerpted from her letters to her niece (the author):

"I am sending you a drawing of the house as I can remember it. The attic or loft was over the living room, not the front of (the) house which was one story then, and the other two bedrooms over the parlour... the paved path from the gate to front porch, had gardens on both sides: bushes with red berries (clusters) on either side, nearer the house peonies and chrysanthemums, fuchsias, and

smaller flowers nearing the gate. The front door was a wide brown one, solid looking. I remember the trees also. The ground sloped towards the street. There was a tall laburnum near the fence on Bond Street, and an enormous cedar tree in the corner which we all climbed. A lot of four-leaved clover used to grow near, which we enjoyed seeing who could find the most. Further along on 5th Street fence was a cherry tree and plum, and nearer the kitchen or double house was a yellow plum tree (delicious) and down in the corner of 5th were two tall apple trees (Gravensteins). They were so big.

"When the city insisted on changing the grade of streets, my father had Frank come up and he and Harry drove the lorry he bought and two big horses, to fill up the lawns and streets... They got the earth from the hill in back of the barn... We had lilac and snow ball trees, too—all were killed when filled up, and Father was very upset about the cedar he had planted, and the honeysuckle bush where the humming birds used to gather and stand still in the air, just fluttering their wings. My mother used to give church garden parties in the evenings and Chinese lanterns strung around through the trees. We thought it great fun. Lots of men came too, and we helped with the food.

"Baking days were huge, and six or more big pies were on the shelf in the pantry in the woodshed, the left side one next to the garden. I also remember we had a cow... Mrs. Cochran from Ilwaco used to feed and milk it, take it out to pasture, and go after it with a lantern in winter. She was the maid then... very Irish. We used to ask her questions in the evenings in the kitchen, when she was ironing, and she would say, 'Hol-e-tongue, I tell oo!' She had several sons and daughters who came to see her now and then.

"We always had great quantities of everything, like a barrel of lump sugar, and one of granulated; a fifty pound sack of flour each week or so. A big bunch of green bananas hung up the back stairs; we would pick (them) off as they ripened. Whole hams hung in a cloth on steel hooks near the stairs, and Harry's bedroom (was at) the other end. Boxes of Baldwin apples were in the barn, and a box of oranges in the kitchen pantry. We were allowed one each day and then another box was ordered. We kids didn't like the Baldwins much, as they were cooking apples. We also took a gallon of milk a day, (poured) in our own big cans with our nametag on each, and had to drink it (never tea and coffee in our young days). My mother bought green bean coffee and roasted it (with butter) and I often had to sit and stir it in the oven to keep it from burning. In big black tins, they ground it each morning for breakfast. We had ham and eggs most mornings, and sometimes fried potatoes.

"On washday Mondays we had sour-kraut and corned beef. Father bought the beef and Mrs. Sam Arndt made and cooked the kraut. We gave her half the beef and she brought the hot dish full in time for dinner each Monday during the winter... She lived in our double house. When Sam died and left her \$2,000 she came over and said she was going East to live in Illinois in her home town and couldn't pay the two-year's rent as she had to live on it and that was that. Her husband had been ill for a long time..., and Father felt sorry for her. Brothers Sam and Jake were partners in iron mongering, shoeing horses, etc... We never heard from her again.

"I think the house was raised after Minnie died of tuberculosis, as they were worried about it being damp. I remember a lot of Indians sleeping in the woodshed, as there was some celebration and they couldn't get back to Clatsop that

night, so they asked my father if they could.

"I remember when Cleveland was elected and a big procession was to pass up Bond Street that night and our house was lit up by small candles in the windows. You know, we were Democrats, and my father was appointed by Cleveland as Collector of Customs. His office was upstairs over the Post Office, and Charles Higgins' brother was in his office, and the members gave him the big red chair when he retired.

"I also remember there was a man from the East who claimed to be a mind reader or something of that sort, and he was to give a performance that evening. He ordered a pair of horses to meet the boat, and to have some money hidden somewhere in the town. The authorities hid it beneath our cedar tree. We knew of course, and when he arrived they blindfolded him and let him drive the horses and he came straight to our house and jumped over the fence and picked up the half dollar.

"There wasn't much in the way of toys. The round table used to be in the middle of the sitting room, with a hanging lamp over it and we used to play until 8 o'clock, my father on the right side of the fireplace and mother on the left. He often took his slippers off and put his feet up on the white marble side of the fireplace, reading his newspaper. In winter, we had to sit in front of the fire and warm our feet and carry lids from the kitchen stove wrapped in newspaper (it was terribly cold upstairs). We washed in the kitchen, and had to take a candle in the bathroom when having a bath.

#### **John Hobson Described by Dr. Owens-Adair**

In Dr. Bethenia Owens-Adair's book, *Some of Her Life Experiences*, she describes John Hobson, her brother-in-law in a section reserved for "the roll of honored Clatsop pioneers who materially aided

in the upbuilding of Astoria, the first city founded on the Northwest Coast."

"I have frequently heard him relate how he learned to read, spell and cipher in the old pioneer way by the light of a two string in a mug of dirty grease; but he had a most remarkable memory, particularly for names and dates, and in fact, for everything. Like a sponge he absorbed information and then stored it up for future use, to be called up at will. He could have made a fine linguist, as he had no trouble in picking up any language with which he came in contact. He acquired the Indian jargon then so much in use so quickly and thoroughly, imitating the difficult guttural sounds so perfectly that a listener out of sight of the parties talking could not distinguish his speech from that of the Indian with whom he was conversing. In addition, he also learned much of the native Indian tongue, which the Indians were greatly averse to using in the presence of whites, and by this knowledge he more than once obtained information of great value to our people."

#### **Visited England in 1883**

During 1883, John Hobson and Mr. Ward made the long journey back to England to visit friends and family, and to persuade these friends to come to Oregon. The trip was successful and many new families took up land on Clatsop Plains and peopled the area with English names, among them: the Wilkinsons, Dawsons, Taggs, Waterhouses and Chadwicks.

#### **Newspaper Chronology Astoria Marine Gazette**

August 30, 1864 — Among a lot of beautiful cheese manufactured on Mr. John Hobson's farm, I noticed one weighing about 80 pounds.

#### **The Astorian**

January 17, 1883 — John Hobson has disposed of his interest in the canning





John Hobson and Mr. Ward at Niagara Falls in 1883, on their way to England where they persuaded many old friends to bring their families to Oregon and settle on Clatsop Plains, among them the Wilkinsons, Dawsons, Taggs, Waterhouses and Chadwicks. (Photo courtesy of the author.)

business both here and at Tillamook [Hobsonville] to his former partner.

March 13, 1883 — We see by the Sacramento, Cal. *Record-Union* of the 2nd that Miss May Hobson, of Astoria, is visiting that city, the guest of Mrs. M. S. Grimes.

April 14, 1883 — A merry party assembled last evening, the occasion being the celebration of Herman Prael's twenty-first birthday. Among those present may be mentioned ... Ettie Hobson, Maude Hobson.

April 27, 1883 — David Kelman of Astoria Marble Works has been awarded the contract for building a cut stone and iron fence around Mr. John Hobson's lot in Clatsop [Plains Pioneer] cemetery.

May 10, 1883 — Some brick makers are actively at work burning a small kiln of brick as an experiment from the clay on John Hobson's place on Young's River.

May 30, 1883 — Astorians who pay taxes on \$5,000 and upwards: John Hobson - \$22,500. Estate of Richard Hobson - \$6,175.

October 28, 1883 — Mrs. John Hobson received a cablegram from her husband yesterday afternoon dated Liverpool, England, October 22, stating that he had made the ocean voyage in safety and was in excellent health.

December 20, 1883 — John Hobson is expected back from his trans-Atlantic trip by Christmas.



John Hobson  
1824—1896  
(CCHS photo #5695-00H)



Anna K. Reeves Hobson  
1852—1898  
(CCHS photo #5696-00H)

December 21, 1883 — Among the passengers on the river steamer last evening was John Hobson, one of Astoria's oldest citizens, returning from a trip to England. Mr. Hobson went east on a trip last fall with the rest of the Oregon pioneers, and having got to the Atlantic, kept right on going across the ocean, returning on the *City of Chicago* on the 17th ult. He expressed his pleasure at getting back, says he enjoyed excellent health throughout and has amassed a store of memories and pleasant recollections while absent.

May 2, 1885 — The President has appointed John Hobson collector of the port, one of the most important offices in his gift in this part of the national domain, and one which will undoubtedly be worthily filled by our old and respected fellow townsman. Mr. Hobson has always been ready with counsel and substantial support for his party and the recognition of this fact is universal. Numerous and hearty congratulations were extended to him and

his appointment meets with general approval. He has been a resident of the city for over forty years, and is thoroughly acquainted with the wants of this section and requirements of his new position. Captain Merryman's commission expires on the 28th of next month, so that Mr. Hobson will have just about time to get his \$100,000 bondsmen ready.

May 9, 1885 — It was stated on the streets yesterday that Mr. John Hobson, the newly appointed collector of the port was not naturalized. Mr. Hobson was absent visiting his son's ranch yesterday, and on his return made reply as appears in another column:

J. F. Halloran (Editor of *The Astorian*)

I see by the *Evening Herald* and I also learned by dispatch that certain parties telegraphed from this place that I am not an American citizen. Now for the benefit of my friends doubting the fact I will say that I can prove that I got my full citizenship papers in Albany, Oregon, in 1853, before Judge G. H. Williams, Col. J. K. Kelly acting as my attorney, Wm.

Hobson and Thos. Eyres witnesses upon the papers, with other necessary papers, I received a donation of 638 acres of land under the donation land law of Oregon.

I think the parties who were so anxious to inform the department in Washington that I was not eligible for office had been actuated more by patriotism than disappointment that some other had not obtained the office, he or they upon inquiry at the proper place could have known the fact.

— John Hobson

John Hobson died in 1896 at the age of 71.

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**Family Photographs**  
*Courtesy of the author.*

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*Marjorie Halderman originally wrote this memoir of her pioneer Hobson family in 1969, and although copies of this manuscript were available at the Astoria Public Library and circulated among local historians, it remained unpublished until now. Marjorie wanted to be a school teacher from early childhood. She accomplished her goal admirably, and enjoyed being librarian for many years at Astoria High School.*

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This 1905 photograph of Dell B. Scully fishing through a crack in the street planking in front of his cigar store at 114 11th Street (between Bond and Commercial) received world-wide publication and interest at the time. (CCHS photo #874-147)



# The Walluski-Labiske Neighborhood

By Jean McKinney

## Introduction

*This is about a special neighborhood which developed along the upper reaches of the Walluski River between 1880 and 1930, and some of its early people. As the stories tend to change a bit with each telling, the original details are elusive. (The geographic name Walluski originates from Walooska, an 1850s Indian chief of this area.)*

*Inga Mae Rasmussen Youtsler (September 23, 1930 - July 31, 1988) grew up in this neighborhood and, in turn, married and raised her family here. I first perceived the special quality of the Walluski-Labiske neighborhood from her manifest love of the area and its people. To Inga Mae, these memoirs are dedicated.*

*A Norwegian newspaper found stuffed around the window frame of the home which belonged to Mr. Britz (now the home of Jack and Cheryl Davies), first stirred my interest in finding more about the folks who lived here a hundred years ago.*

*Waino Parhaniemi spent many hours driving me around the area to acquaint me with the places and people. I have included only a small part of what he feels should be recorded. I leave the rest for the readers to add as they talk with those who "remember when."*

**B**Y THE TIME Hugh Alexander Irving reached the Columbia River he had had his 33rd birthday. He had ridden horseback all the way from Humboldt County, California, most of it along the beach. Since he couldn't swim his horse across the Columbia, he settled down. His first job was driving oxen on the banks of the Columbia for logging outfits. The year was 1885 and Astoria was already a bustling mill town.

*Oregon's Handbook of the Pacific Northwest*, published in 1894, described the area: "Thousands of square miles of hemlock, spruce, and fir forests are found near the vicinity of Astoria, and the quality of the timber here is of the same high character as is found on the best parts of the Puget Sound country. Trees are found in these forests of over 250 feet in height, and measuring from 3 to 12 feet in diameter. The sawmills at and near Astoria have made shipments, principally to Mexico, South America, Australia, China and the ports of the United States aggregating over 20,000,000 feet during a single year. Three large sawmills, in addition to planing mills and a number of box factories, are now running in Astoria."<sup>1</sup>

## Earliest Railroad

Four years previously, much of the timber along the river banks had been logged by S. P. Marsh who had a camp in the Walluski area in 1881.<sup>2</sup> When Hugh arrived the John C. Trullinger Company was gearing up to harvest the timber further back from the river. This is the Trullinger who built the first electric light plant in Astoria which lighted the business district on Christmas night, 1885. In 1886, Mr. Trullinger laid a railroad from the east bank of the Walluski River, near the present Irving Bridge, to the east toward his logging camp which was near the ridge between the Walluski and John Day Rivers. It was one of the earliest railroads to be used in this area for the purpose of bringing out logs. Hugh went to work on the Trullinger railroad which was known as the Walluski-Bear Valley Railroad.

### Jack and Matthew Ryan

John P. (Jack) Ryan and his brother, Matthew, settled on their land, the present Mark Youtsler home, about this same time. They had first lived in Little Walluski until Matthew traded that property to the Boyles family for their home on Labiske Road. Jack married Katie Carr in 1886. Katie's parents (Francis and Margarette Carr) came from San Francisco in 1870 when she was two. She had gone to school in Astoria. Their homestead near the Old Military Road (Certificate No. 455) was proved up on August 14, 1874. It is believed they lived there when Katie and Jack met. The Ryans had two sons, James A. born in 1888 and Edward born in 1890. Although these boys had no descendants, the family was a vital part of the neighborhood while they were here.

### Trullinger's Logging Camp

The following report appeared in the *Weekly Astorian* of September 3, 1887, having been copied from *The Oregonian*:

"Through the courtesy of Mr. J. C. Trullinger and the superintendent of his logging crew, Mr. Yocum, I had the privilege of witnessing in its details the operations of logging. The Trullinger camp is on the Walluski River southeast of Astoria about seven miles by land. By water, the usual way of travel, it is some distance further. I chose the land route because it gave a chance to see the 'inside' of the timber.

"There is not, I believe, such another road in the United States. It was made at great expense and is for the greater part a grand aisle through the forest. On all sides there are great trees, while the smaller growth is of the dense and impenetrable sort common near the sea-coast in Oregon. Although I was looking for the practical rather than the beautiful I could not but mark the charm of the journey. While the route was certainly

monotonous in the continuous march of tall trees, variety was not lacking in the smaller growths and in the coloring which ranged from the most sombre deep green to the bright scarlet of autumn.

"I found Mr. Yocum and his men at work in a maze of timber so dense and tangled that it was only possible to get my horse through by cutting a special trail. From the midst of the maze made up of small first, scattered cedars, hemlocks, bushes of many kinds and a tangle of vines, the giant firs were standing, from twenty to sixty per acre. A more symmetrical, cleaner and better quality of timber no man ever saw. In the course of two hours, I was able to see the whole operation from the felling of the tree to the chuting of the logs into the river. In the fall of those mighty trunks, from two to three hundred feet in height, there is something majestic and to me painful. They come down with a crash which fells all obstacles and makes the firm earth tremble. Riding on horseback beside one of these prostrate giants, near the big or butt end, my shoulder was a little lower than the top. At the first cut the wood measured, inside the bark, eight feet and the fraction of an inch across. With the bark the tree three feet from the ground was eight feet and seven inches through, or twenty-five feet and nine inches in circumference. I am not now speaking of a special brag tree, but one that came casually under my notice. While it was, so Mr. Yocum told me, a large tree, still he had cut down and hauled out many equally large and some that were larger. As we sat, he pointed out to me several standing trees which would measure from seven to nine feet in diameter and entirely free from limbs or other defects for a distance of one hundred and fifty feet from the ground. Such is the timber of the Walluski, a fair sample of the forests which lie adjacent to Astoria and





Trullinger's oxen "snaking" a log en-route to a railroad flatcar circa 1889. Thad Trullinger is seated in both photographs. (CCHS photos #258-615 above, and #4355-615 below)

described in the districts mentioned above.

"In Mr. Trullinger's camp, the main haul is made by railroad constructed for this purpose so that the haul made by the oxen is not great. This part was to me extremely interesting. Five yoke or ten oxen were hitched to a log weighing in the neighborhood of twenty thousand pounds, and it was 'snaked' along, not indeed without much geeing and hawing, with comparative ease to a platform from which it was easily rolled to a flat car. As a novelty I undertook to ride down a grade so abrupt that the cattle had to run to keep clear from the descending log. Planting myself firmly astride I held on as best I could. It didn't take long, less than half a minute, but I've known a whole summer vacation to seem shorter.

"Railroads are now being introduced everywhere as an aid to logging. By their use, distance is practically annihilated, and timber fields back from water are made scarcely less valuable than those which lie along creek or river bottoms.







**(Above)** Trullinger Logging Camp, circa 1889. In 1886, Trullinger's Walluski-Bear Valley Railroad was the first railroad in Clatsop County. (CCHS photo #15-610)

**(Below)** Though the men are unidentified, among Trullinger's employees were Hugh Irving and others whose families remained in the Walluski area after Trullinger's logging operations left. (CCHS photo #16-610)



As there are no demands for speed these logging roads are usually of cheap construction. Old rails and old rolling stock, too much worn for fast work, are, for the purposes of logging, quite as good as new stock and are commonly used. Mr. Trullinger's road, which is standard gauge and perfect in its way, was built of old material and cost only about \$4000 per mile. When the immediate district through which it runs is exhausted it will be an easy matter to take up the rails and put them down in another place. From this time forth railroads will be an absolute necessity for logging. There is in the general Astoria district a vast quantity of timber within a mile and a half of water, and so available for skid roads and oxen. This is the limit for hauling with oxen, but even at this distance it is found cheaper to build and operate short roads than to employ cattle." —A.H. in *The Oregonian*.

This article, written more than one hundred years ago, tells us a lot about the land and the men who took the first crop of timber from its hills. And, indeed, "A. H." was right about the railroad. It did become indispensable to logging operations all over the Northwest. And Mr. Trullinger did take up the rails of this first logging railroad and move it to Hoquiam. Still marking the landscape are cuts in the land and low swales where the railroad lay and where the bull teams pulled in the logs. The roadbed went across what was to be the Irving property and paralleled what is now the Labiske Road for about three-quarters of a mile then angled north to the intersection of the Old Military Road and the Walluski River. From there it went up within three-quarters of a mile from the ridge between the Walluski and the John Day Rivers. In the tidal part of the Walluski River, there was a rollway, the remainder of which can still be seen if you are fortunate enough to take a canoe

downstream from the Irving Bridge. Here the men maneuvered the logs, brought down by rail, into the river with jacks and peavys.

### **Lillenas Road Homesteaders**

Some of the men who worked for Trullinger laid claim to several tracts of government land available for homesteading. They lived at the top of the Lillenas Road near the source of the Walluski River. Their names were Estoos, Fitcha, Reinertsen, Lillenas, Saterbo, Kleppy and Westbostad, all Norwegian.<sup>3</sup> They brought their household goods out from Astoria on the Old Military Road which was significant to the development of this area. It came over the hill from Astoria above the intersection of Labiske Road and the logging road which is called Walooskie Way and continued on through the area near where the Palmer Road takes off from Labiske Road. From there it headed southeast toward Jewell. Life was as hard for their wives and children as it was for the men who walked the long mile to get to the logging site. A trip to Astoria took all day on foot or horseback.

### **Trullinger Camp Location**

The camp where most of the men lived was located on property now owned by Kelly Larson above Kissville. They dammed the Walluski near the camp, rocked the sides and bottom and made a turbine wheel which gave them the power to grind grain and turn the grindstones with which they sharpened their axes. The water supply for the camp was also from the creek. Years later when Waino Parhaniemi was a lad, he and his buddies enjoyed poking around the open grassy field which had been the Trullinger camp. Mostly they found old Wizard Oil bottles, small monuments to the hard labor put in by the men in woods. Today, if you are skillful at reading the landscape, you can see the marks left by the operation at the



landing where logs were loaded on the railroad.

### **The Trullinger Family**

John C. Trullinger, at twenty, had come to Oregon from Henry County, Iowa, with his parents and nine other brothers and sisters. They travelled by covered wagon and joined a wagon train which took them over the famous Barlow Trail. This was 1848. The following year he with two brothers and their grandfather went to California to seek gold. From these experiences, John learned that there was nothing he couldn't accomplish if he put his mind to it. When he came to Astoria in 1875 with his wife, Hannah Boyle, he already had a large family. The children were Albert Perry, Annabelle, D. B., D. J., Elizabeth Ann, Fred L., S. Grant, Isabel, Thomas O., Thad S., John H., and William T. Some of his children have laid claim to fame on their own, not the least of which was John H. Trullinger, the artist whose work was featured in a special exhibit at the Heritage Museum at Astoria in 1989-1990. [*The Legacy of John Henry Trullinger* art catalog is available from the Clatsop County Historical Society.]

During a business downturn of the late 1870s, Trullinger moved from Astoria and pursued several other enterprises until his return to the lumber business in Astoria in 1880. While they lived in Astoria, the boys worked in their father's businesses. John and William, at 14 and 15 years of age, became electricians and engineers for the lighting system in Astoria, while Thad ran the logging operation.

### **From Logging to Farming**

There were big trees and big forests which took big men to wrestle those giants to the mills. But most of the men moved on when Trullinger pulled out. The 1911 *Oregon Blue Book* shows that Walluski Precinct had 138 people by

1900, and only 121 ten years later. After the echoes of the early donkey engines had died away, a more permanent breed moved in. They were the ones who chose to build homes and glean a living from the land around them. Most came from northern Europe. There were as many reasons for coming to America as there were families. Some of the reasons stemmed from the fact that there was unrest in northern Europe and many fathers found they were not able to provide their sons with an inheritance of land there. It seems impulsive to have launched off into a new world where there were no promises.

### **Hugh Irving**

By 1890, along the Walluski River most of the big trees had been logged. The hills from the present Irving Bridge to the ridge between the Walluski and the John Day Rivers had been cleared and burned. On 320 acres of this land on both sides of the Walluski River, Hugh Irving, in 1890, settled with his bride Bertha Stoner. The property was bought from a man named Blake. The boat landing was called Blake's Landing for some time. The Irving family, with six children, became a cornerstone of a stable community. They owned the land for almost a hundred years.

Before meeting Hugh, Bertha lived near the boat landing on Youngs River south of the Youngs' farm. She had come from Cedar Flats above Fishhawk Falls to live near the Youngs River School where she taught.

### **G. C. Richardson**

One of the early logging operations in the neighborhood was run by Jack Ryan and G. C. Richardson. The Richardsons' home was a couple of hundred yards beyond the drive that went to the Ryan property. It was where Gus Carlson lived later. The children were Beatrice (Beatty), May, Leonard, Lucy, and Ruth.





**Andrew Young family. Seated, L to R: Mother, Johanna (Frederikson) Young (1846-1902), daughter Agnes (1886-1976), Father, Andrew Young (1850-1929). Sons in birth order: William (1876-1927), Edward C. (1879-1898), Dan (1880-1958), Julius (1881-1899) and Edwin (1883-1971). (CCHS photo #4301-00Y)**

### **Andrew Young**

The Andrew Youngs, who had owned a large parcel of land along Youngs River since 1885, finally moved to Astoria in 1891. Andrew's grandson, also Andy Young, still has the abstract of title for the property and it shows that the United States deeded 639 acres to Luke and Nancy Taylor in 1872. Before the Young's purchase of the property several parcels were sold off, some for a cemetery, some for a grange and some to private parties. Eventually it was deeded by Dennis Harrington to Johanna Young, Andrew's wife.

Andrew was born in Malmo, Sweden in 1850, but raised in Lomma. He and his

brother Benjamin were seamen who sailed the seven seas as young men. They were in San Francisco for awhile and then Fraser River before coming to Astoria. About 1874, before settling down, Andrew went to Denmark to get his fiance, Johanna Frederikson. On their return they lived in uppertown while Andrew fished the Columbia and worked in the canneries. He and Benjamin established the Alaska Fisherman's Packing Co. One night he lost eight or ten of his boats during a storm. That's when he moved his family to the farm. He and many others who lived in the district managed to combine fishing and farming.



**Mountain View School in 1903.**  
*(CCHS photo #3736-511C, courtesy of  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ray Irving, Eugene, Oregon.)*

Andrew and Johanna had seven children: William, Edward C., Dan, Julius, Edwin, and Agnes. Another daughter, Veno, was disowned by the family when she ran off with a sailor who had jumped ship in Astoria. Their youngest child, Agnes, was five years old when Andrew took up farming. Two of the boys, Edward and Julius, died in their late teen years.

### **Youngs River School**

A school was established, south of the Young's property along the river. The property for the school (District No. 21) was donated, in February of 1892, by Charles E. Osgood with a reversionary clause. Children from across the river came to the Youngs River School by row-boat. There were Gustafsons, Johnsons, and Gallagers as well as the Osgood and the Young children and, perhaps, others from the east side of the river. Bertha Stoner and C. C. Brower each taught there at different times.

### **Osgood Family**

Mr. Osgood had been mustered out of Company A of the 40th Infantry in 1870 in Boston. He came west with at least one son and daughter-in-law and their children. They homesteaded eighty acres on Youngs River in 1880. The son, Charles

Henry, was married to Flora Parsons. They had six children by this time, and eventually had three more. The senior Mr. Osgood died in 1900. Charles H. became the Justice of the Peace in the Youngs River Precinct in 1895 and served several terms on the school board.

### **Mountain View School**

The Youngs River School was eventually abandoned and in 1900, some of the Young's property was donated for a new school-house. This was the Mountain View School (also School District No. 21) built on the top of the knoll just south of the John L. Christie's home. The parents of the students in the district brought their teams with plows and scrapers to level a field for the school yard.

### **Henningsen Family**

The new school was already holding classes by the time the Henningsen family moved into the neighborhood. In May of 1902, Thor and Kristine Henningsen purchased the farm, which is still in the family, and generally known in this locale as the Henningsen Farm. The following account of the immigration of the family is taken from Bonnie Henningsen Fisher's article, "The Henningsen Farm," which appeared in the Spring 1981 issue of *Cumtux*: "The Thor Henningsen family started immigrating from Schleswig, Denmark (Germany) to the United States in 1901 when Jens Peder, their eldest son was sent to Astoria, Oregon at the age of sixteen. Astoria was the chosen destination as Jasper Hovgaard, a cousin on Pete's mother's side, was already here. Upon arrival in Astoria, Pete found cousin Jasper had gone to Alaska for the gold rush. Pete met a man with the name of Ekoos herding cows on 38th Street who spoke the same language. Pete settled in."

After two wars, 1848-1850 and 1864, Denmark had been forced to give the Schleswig-Holstein area (where the Henningsen family lived) to Austria and





Students at the Mountain View School in 1903. *Back row (left to right): Art Graham, Al Buckner, Jim Ryan, Etta Osgood and Agnes Young. Front row: Frances Osgood, Chet Beckner, Beatty Richardson, Edith Irving, George Irving (Ethel Irving behind George), Frank Beckner and George Osgood. (CCHS photo #3736-511B, courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. Ray Irving, Eugene, Oregon.)*

#### Mt. View Students

Prussia. Thor did not want his sons to have to serve in the German army, so the rest of the family soon followed their son, Pete. This farm lies between the Nehalem Road (Highway 202) and Youngs River a quarter mile south of milepost six. Their other children were Ingebord Margrethe, Botilda, Thor, Christine, Margaret, Anskar and Johannes, and they ranged from fifteen to three years old.

The family became an integral part of the community and built a productive dairy farm on their land. Thor, who had studied veterinary medicine, found that he was often called upon by the farmers of the community in emergencies. Because he had a good team of horses, he was employed to help build the plank road out from Astoria. He built a plank mill across the road from the house to help supply the planks for the new road.

The thirteen students at the Mountain View School in the spring of 1903 were: Frances Osgood, Chet Beckner, Beatty Richardson, Edith, Ethel and George Irving, Frank Beckner, George Osgood, Art Graham, Al Beckner, Jim Ryan, Etta Osgood and Agnes Young. The teacher was Kate Osgood. In December of the next school year, Kate Osgood married William Trullinger, whose first wife, Hallie Raymond had died of tuberculosis. The Beckner family lived where the Jack Davieses live now. The Osgoods lived south of the Youngs between the Nehalem Road and the Youngs River. The Graham family lived in the neighborhood briefly, then moved over the ridge to the John Day area. In later years one of the boys worked for George Irving when he was raising mink.

"In memory of days spent together in the school room this token is presented





**Kate Osgood**  
1903 School Teacher  
Mountain View School  
(CCHS photo #3736-511A)

with compliments of your teacher" is the inscription on the inside of a souvenir program from the Mountain View School in 1906. The teacher then was Lola B. Phair who later married William Bartoldus. It also shows the directors of the school board were C. H. Osgood, Chairman; J. P. Ryan, Clerk; G. G. Richardson, and H. A. Irving. The student body had grown to twenty-two, many of whom were brothers and sisters of those in the photograph three years earlier. In grade one were Edna Osgood and Henry Jurgensen; in grade three George Irving, Lucy Richardson, Anskar Henningsen, Clarence Irving, and Frances Osgood; in grade four May Richardson, Marcus Jurgensen, Leonard Richardson, and Jacob Jurgensen; in grade five Margrethe Henningsen, Edith Irving, and George Osgood; in grade seven Beatrice Richardson, Eda Baumgartner, Edward Ryan, Lena Baumgartner, Etta Osgood, Ethel

Irving, Henry Baumgartner, and Christine Henningsen.

### **Eddie Ryan**

Eddie Ryan was sixteen years old when he attended the seventh grade. Years later in an interview with Sam Churchill, Eddie said he had worked on the donkey for Pearson, Johnson and Larson when he was eleven years old. It may have been a summer job, or he may have worked when he could and gone to school when he didn't have a job. Some of the men fished and farmed. Some logged and farmed. Almost every housewife had chickens. There were no elk and few deer in the neighborhood then. A lot of the men had dogs for hunting. This may have accounted for the lack of larger game in the immediate area.

### **Edward Young**

Edward Young (son of Andrew and Johanna Young) died at the Cavite Hospital in the Phillipines on August 11, 1898. He was a member of the Oregon Volunteers in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War. His resistance had been lowered by a severe case of measles on the trip over; then he got typhoid fever after the troops landed.<sup>4</sup> His family suffered a great loss in the tragic death of their boy. He was buried in the hospital cemetery and it was quite some time later that his body was returned home and the family was able to have a proper funeral for him. The burial was at Greenwood Cemetery following a memorial service at the Episcopal Church on May 28, 1899. The funeral boat with the casket proceeded up the Youngs River with family and friends aboard. The cemetery could not be reached by road at that time.

Because Americans did not enjoy instant medical help as we do today, death was an ever-present consideration. Life was precious but fragile. The Henningsens had lost two small daughters, each

about three days old, before they left Schleswig. One was the twin sister of Jens Peder. Only three months after she died another baby girl was born to them. They named her Botilda, the same name as the child they had just lost. Soon after moving to their place in Walluski, Botilda went to the home of Mrs. Frye, who was suffering from tuberculosis, to help out. Botilda contracted the disease and died in 1904 at the age of seventeen.

Not long after the Henningsens moved to their farm, their neighbor, Johanna Young, died. Three years later, in 1905, Andrew moved to Astoria, leaving the farm in the care of Daniel. In 1907, Andrew and his second wife, Emma Harrer, deeded the farm to Daniel.

#### **Rasmussen Family**

Another parcel of the Young's property, about forty acres, was eventually sold to Nels Jacob Rasmussen who had come to Astoria from Kappel on Lolland (one of the southern Danish islands). He was sent to live with his two uncles,

Rasmus and Christian in America. They had come earlier to Astoria and were living in Uppertown. One of the uncles had a scow at the foot of 29th where he lived.

It was 1900 when the twenty-year-old Nels Jacob sailed to the east coast of America. Then, by train, he crossed the continent to Astoria. He must have thought the trip to be endless since the whole of Denmark is not as large as Vermont and New Hampshire combined. Nels (who spoke no English yet) got on the wrong train in Omaha and headed south instead of west. Someone along the way helped him get back to Omaha and onto a train going to Oregon. When he was settled in Uppertown he fished with his uncles in the *Shoo-fly Drift* (from Tongue Point to 16th Street). For several years, he fished summers and worked in the Clatsop Mill Box Factory the rest of the year. Years later his son, Nels Irving, fished with him in the summers and he, in turn, continued to fish the Columbia

**A funeral boat at the Walluski-Moffit Landing, the only access to Greenwood Cemetery in the early days. (CCHS photo #975-165)**





until the 1980's.

In December of 1905, five years after his arrival, Nels Jacob married Ingeborg Margrethe Henningsen. The ceremony took place in the house on the Hayseth place. Immediately after their marriage they lived in Tucker Creek. Then they moved to a scow on the banks of the Columbia River where their first child, Johanna Christine was born. Ingeborg only lasted three months on the scow before she convinced Nels that they should get to higher ground. The three of them moved to an upstairs flat east of the old Hauke's store and lived there until they purchased the land from Dan Young. Ingebord was very happy to be back on a farm where she could have plenty of fresh milk. She and Nels had five more children, Thora Pearl, Petra Frances, Christina Nelma, Nels Irving, and Inga Mae. The family made significant contributions to the development of

**Johanna Rasmussen, three years old, in the school yard of Mountain View School at the top of the hill.**



the vicinity. Rasmussens still own the original farm property.

### **Parhaniemi Family**

In 1903, Simon Parhaniemi came to the United States to settle in the same area as his brother Fred. He stayed and worked for Fred as a teamster and powder man.

Fred had been in the United States since 1891 when he was sixteen. He had worked in Colorado, Wyoming and California and was a bit of an entrepreneur, having had some race horses for awhile. He was able to buy 300 acres in what was called Moffit Acres at the confluence of the Walluski River and the Little Walluski. The price was good because the dike wouldn't hold and the land was flooded at high tide. He set out to reclaim the land. First he got some big sinkers (waterlogged hemlock logs), built them up on both sides of the dike at low tide, tied them down with chains and stakes, and had stable dikes for forty or fifty years.

Fred bought a home in Little Walluski and in 1901 married his housekeeper, Elma Winters [Wintturi in the county marriage records, book 6, page 133]. They had ten children: Selena, Fred, Hans, Eino, Nikku, Olsmo, Ina, Delilah, Leonard, and Irene. Fred was the fireman on the County steam shovel which was used to build roads. Later he was a road contractor.

Fred and Simon had other brothers and sisters who had come to America, but not all of them stayed. They had a brother Aleck who fished, ran a rooming house and was also in the transit business. He owned a Republic truck with solid tires. Most of the time he lived in Astoria. A brother, John, logged for Hans Petersen in Little Walluski for awhile and eventually went back to Finland. They also had a sister, Josephine who came to the Astoria area.



Fred and Simon's father had been born into a family whose surname was Salmon. That was in Pyhäjoki, Finland. When he reached manhood and married, he rented property on a large estate from the Russian Crown. It was the custom for the family to carry the place name. Since Parhaniemi was the name on the estate, that is the name his children carried with them to the new world. Some of Simon's brothers and sisters eventually shortened their names to Niemi.

### **Labiske Family**

Julius Labiske came to the United States from Poznan, Germany in 1907. He was already married and had four children. He finally was able to send for his wife, Ernestine Henke, and the children, in 1909. Poznan is really in Poland, but the country had been divided among Russia, Austria, and Prussia, and in 1795, Poznan became part of Prussia. For more than 125 years (until 1918) there was no Poland. The Labiskes spoke German. Three more children were born to them, one of whom died at birth. Their children were Mary, Gust, Emma, Ed, Annie, Carl and Herman.

At first they lived in the Olney Hotel and then moved to Casey, Oregon. Casey was located just north of Youngs River Falls. They lived in a house on the property presently owned by the Harold Leonhardts, on Youngs River Road. Some time after that they moved to the property near the end of Labiske Road which is presently owned by the Zoriches. The red barn Julius built still stands. In 1912 he built the house. It was made of one-by-twelves barged to the Little Walluski bridge. From there they were taken over the Old Military Road to the top of the hill, then hauled on a road which Julius built down the south side of the hill to the site of the house.

### **Importance of Horses**

When the Irving children were growing up, their father raised horses for sale

and for hire. He also kept teams of oxen and hired out to help on logging operations. With the horses they would yard in the logs using a capstan. When a log was pulled in to the landing, Mr. Irving would send one of the boys with a gentle horse to unroll the line again and hook up another log. One of their favorite horses, Ted, was often used for parades and special events in Astoria, because he was a high-stepper. The children loved to watch for Ted to appear as the parade went by. Ray remembers that the very fine saddle his father had ridden up the beach from California was carefully stored in their barn for many years.

### **School was Social Center**

Since Hugh Irving was on the school board, they often provided the teacher with room and board at their home. It was the custom that the teacher would live with one of the board members if her home was not in the district. They received \$20 a month for boarding the teacher.

In 1911-1912, Miss Straw was the teacher and boarded with the Rasmussens. This was before their eldest child, Johanna, started to school, but Johanna remembers Miss Straw's playing the organ at their home for the church choir practice. A worship service was held in the schoolhouse each Sunday afternoon. Johanna felt quite grand having an organ in their home, although none of the children was allowed to touch it. Her Great Uncle August bought the organ for them. Until Nels prevailed upon the Lutheran pastor in town to come to the Mountain View School on Sunday afternoons, the family all piled in the wagon and bounced the eight miles to church each week. They rode in an open wagon pulled by a horse named Fanny.

Betsy Wootton was one of the teachers. Other teachers and their years of service at Mountain View School were: Irene Riley (1913-16), Jessie Armstrong



**1921 Mountain View School graduates Johanna Rasmussen, Eda Hauke and Annie Labiske, with their teacher, Mr. Wolfe.**

(1915-17), Georgia Armstrong (1917-18), Ethel Irving (1918), Effie G. Basford (1918-19), Esther Vale (1919-20), Mr. G. M. Wolfe (1920-21), Juanita K. Tarr (1921-22), Gertrude H. Larson (1922-23), Elizabeth Setters (1923-24), Mrs. Aurilla F. McAlister (1924-25), Clara E. Halverson Miles (1925-27), Bernice Ward (1927-29), Bernice Peterson (1929-32), Olga Wotila (1932-35), Malinda Ragsdale (1935-38), Bessie Bartoldus (1938-40), Evelyn DeNyse (1940-41), Mary Bird (1942-42), and Anna L. Baumann (1942-44). (Mountain View School consolidated with Olney in 1944.) During World War I, Georgia Armstrong married a soldier in the middle of the school year and the school board decided that starting January 7, 1918, Bertha Irving should finish out the year as teacher. Some of the students didn't like the idea very much, since she knew all of their parents so well!

The social life of the neighborhood centered around the schoolhouse and its activities. They had great pie socials. All the boys would try to bid high on the pie baked by the teacher. The neighborhood had all-day picnics which included people from miles around. They came in their wagons with enough food to eat all day. At four o'clock they would go home to milk, then come back and have another baseball game and more food to eat.

Grace Mattson Sunell remembered her school days at Mountain View with more than the usual delight. She and her parents, John and Edla Mattson and sisters Nelma and Ina, lived in Astoria until her father saw that the dairy farm of Mr. Kuski was for sale. This was the former Hayseth farm where the Henningsens lived when Ingebord and Nels Rasmussen were married. Both of Grace's parents left Finland because they heard that jobs and money were plentiful here.

Grace and her sister Nell walked the mile to school no matter what the weather. They wore dresses, long stockings and leather shoes (their father made leather shoes), and they carried umbrellas. The sisters milked the cows before school and helped in the garden when they came home. On baking day, they hurried home to get to the fresh bread while it was still warm. Grace didn't have store-bought bread until she was married.

The teacher, Betsy Wootton, lived with the Richardsons then. Eddie Ryan would see that there was wood inside for the stove and start the fire in the mornings. The boys kept the fire going during the day. Grace remembered that Johanna Rasmussen's mother made very good gingerbread and she often had some for the children when they stopped by the Rasmussen house on their way home from school. It was convenient to have the Rasmussen house so close to the



school. At school they memorized a lot of poetry, put on plays, and performed dialogues and singing programs for the parents. Everyone sang with gusto. They also had a lot of spelling bees. George Irving and Anskar Henningsen were the best spellers. The children carried their lunches to school in small buckets fitted with lids. The boys built teepees in the schoolyard in the good weather and went out there to eat lunch. Once in a great while they'd let the girls come in. When Grace finished the eighth grade, her family moved back to town and she went to work at Woolworths.

The Irving boys were given the responsibility of getting in the winter's supply of firewood for the school. One summer's day they brought a load of alder up to stack under the building. While working they were charged by Mr. Krupke's bull. They took refuge under the school building. That was perfectly safe, but the bull kept them cornered there until late afternoon. Finally Ray and Glen managed to keep the bull occupied while George escaped out the back way and ran for help.

#### **When Fences were New**

Fences were new in the neighborhood and they caused almost as many problems as they solved. Ray remembers getting a rather bad cut on his head; then he figured out what barbed wire was all about. The black bear would often run into Mr. Henningsen's woven wire fences. Cows that had gone dry were turned out and allowed to roam the unfenced neighborhood, and the Irving boys were frequently dispatched to find them. It was then that they learned respect for bulls and appreciation for fences.

#### **Fishing Experiences**

As George got older and stronger he began to work with Nels Rasmussen on his gillnet boat. He was called a "puller," which means that he helped out with whatever needed to be done. Fishing in the Columbia was permitted six days a week. Some years later George told the boys in the neighborhood about one especially dark night when they accidentally pulled their net over a buoy. Mr. Rasmussen didn't hesitate, but took off his outer layer of clothing and clambered onto the buoy to free the net. This feat of daring really impressed young George Irving, especially when he noticed ice on the boat the next morning.

One week when they were paid by the fish buyer, Mr. Rasmussen was not at all happy with the amount they had been given. He did not doubt the buyer's honesty, but felt there must be some mistake with his figures. George had been keeping a diary, and because he had recorded their daily poundage meticulously, the buyer accepted his numbers with apologies and they were well paid for the season.

*To be continued.*

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#### **Reference Notes**

1. *Oregonian's Handbook of the Pacific Northwest*, The Oregonian Publishing Co., 1894, page 296.
2. *Cumtux*, Summer 1982, page 9.
3. *Walluski Valley Pioneers*, by Dorothy Lil-lenas-Peake, in Astoriana Collection, Astoria Public Library.
4. *Daily Morning Astorian* 23Aug1898:4, 8Oct1898:4.

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*Jean McKinney and her husband, Curtis H., live on Labiske Road on fifteen acres which, at one time, comprised the northeast corner of the Hugh Irving property. Their driveway crosses a low drainage which was the site of the Trullinger logging railroad. They have lived in the Astoria area since 1972. Jean is a retired library assistant at the Astoria Public Library.*

# Clatsop County's First Finn

By Liisa Penner

**C**HARLES J. NEWMAN was the first person of known Finnish descent who became a permanent resident of Clatsop County, Oregon. He was born Jacobi Johan Carl Nyman in October 1829, in Liminka, Oulu, Finland and came to the United States in 1854. Newman lived in Clatsop County from 1859 until his death in 1907.

Little would be known about Charles Newman, but for the large file accumulated as a result of his service in the American Civil War. From these records, ordered from the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and from other sources such as Clatsop County deed records, assessment lists and judgment rolls, we have learned the following:

## **Wife Stayed in Finland**

When Charles J. Newman came to the U.S., he left in Finland his first wife, Brita (Preda) Magdalena Sicklander Nyman, who apparently did not come to the U.S. She died in Oulu, Finland on May 3, 1889, according to a statement from her parish minister which was included in Newman's pension record. Brita was born February 7, 1826 and was 63 years old when she died.

## **Newman Here in 1859**

Charles Newman first shows up on Clatsop County records on May 27, 1859, when he declared his intent to become a citizen of the United States at the Clatsop County Courthouse, a newly built wooden structure standing on the northeast corner of the same block as the courthouse today. Curtis J. Trenchard was the Clerk of the Court on that day, the same man who five years later examined Newman when he entered the U. S. Army.

Two men that day, Charles Newman and John Hendrickson, renounced their allegiance to the country of Russia, not Finland, as it was many years before Finland was to have achieved her independence. Hendrickson's name is found right after Charles Newman's on the 1860 federal census and is also on the military list for 1863, after which Hendrickson disappears from these early local records.

Charles J. Newman was listed on the 1859 Assessment Roll as having personal property valued at \$100. On this amount his taxes were figured, so that he paid ten cents for school tax, 20 cents for state tax, 60 cents for county tax, and as a legal voter paid \$1 for the poll tax, for a total of \$1.90 in taxes. His personal property may have been a horse, mule or oxen. He was not listed as owning any real property.

On the 1860 federal census for Clatsop County, Charles J. Newman was listed as a 34-year-old farmer. Besides John Hendrickson, another Finn was on this census, Charles Brown who was 27 years old with personal property valued at \$500. Brown was serving on the Revenue Cutter and may not have been a permanent fixture in Clatsop County, as I found no other reference to him.

## **Military Examination**

Charles Newman's name is found on the military lists for Clatsop County for 1863, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868 and 1869, but not for 1865 which was the year he served. On December 23, 1864, Charles J. Newman applied to enter the U.S. military service. The 35-year-old Finn revealed to examiner Dr. Curtis J. Trenchard that he had once been sick



with yellow fever in New Orleans, and that he had also had smallpox although he had been vaccinated for it (the proof of it being four vaccination scars in a line on his right and left arms). He admitted to a habit of drinking, but had no other vicious habits. Dr. Trenchard seemed to have been impressed by the number of colored tattoos that Newman wore: On his left arm below the elbow were the letters J. N. M., next M. R. A. - 1829 (his birth year). Next were four flags and a large ship, then a sailor and anchor on his wrist and a star at the base of his thumb. On the right arm below the elbow were an eagle on the wing, a woman, a highland girl dancing, three flags and a mermaid. We might speculate from this that Newman spent some time as a sailor.

The fact that Newman signed this record and others with an "X", does not mean that he could not read. According to Sylvia Mattson, proof of literacy was required in Finland before one could be married. Charles Newman probably could read but was just unaccustomed to writing.

### **1865 Infantry Service**

On January 7, 1865, Charles J. Newman was mustered into service at Portland, Oregon expecting to serve a three-year term as a member of Company E, 1st Regiment, Oregon Infantry Volunteers. The recruiting officer reported that Charles Newman was five feet ten inches tall, with grey eyes, black hair and a fair complexion. A copy of the June 1865 muster roll from the Oregon State Archives shows that he was listed that month for extra duty as "sawyer" in the Quarter Master Dept.

Other soldiers in this company from Clatsop County on this list were Sergeant Robert McDowell Grant, Corporal Nathan L. Coffenberry, Privates Thomas Jackson, Benjamin F. Manson, Andrew J. Moore, Ezra Murray, William B. Ross, Thomas Spencer, Andrew J. Welch and

his cousin, John W. Welch. Charles W. Wright, later the genial proprietor of the Occident Hotel in Astoria, was also a member of this company.

### **Injured During Service**

Newman's months of service were spent in the Pacific Northwest. Although these men did not take part in the famous battles in the East, still they had to endure long marches through barren landscapes in freezing weather during winter and searing heat in summer, damaging the health of many of these men. Exposure to severe winter cold on a march caused Newman to develop chronic rheumatism in his legs, arms and back. And while playing on the parade ground at Fort Colville, Newman fell and was accidentally kicked in the back by a comrade which injured his spine. He mustered out at Fort Vancouver, Washington Territory, on November 22, 1865, perhaps due to the War Between the States ending (Robert E. Lee having surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant in April of 1865).

### **Land Transactions**

Charles J. Newman returned to Clatsop County and on May 27, 1867, arranged to buy from Cyrus Olney, who held the mortgage, lots 1 and 2 of block 52 in McClure's Astoria (this was the southeast corner of 3rd and Exchange Streets). Newman may not have been able to keep up the payments, as a couple of years later Cyrus Olney sold this same property to Alexander Corno.

Newman's land claim in Clatsop County adjoined the donation land claim of Hiram Carnahan in the Youngs River settlement, and included buildings, fences and other improvements. On December 9, 1867, Newman sold his land claim for \$300 to Timothy Corbett, a Civil War veteran from Ireland. (Hiram Carnahan's claim was later owned by Jacob Kamm.)

### **Youngs River Farmer**

On the 1870 federal census for Clatsop County, Newman was shown as a 41-year-old farmer living in the Youngs River area, and born in Finland. The only other Finn in Clatsop County on the 1870 census was Peter Anderson, a 44-year-old seaman at Cathlamet Bay on the east side of Tongue Point. Living with him was a five-year-old girl, Maria Miller. Anderson was not listed on the 1880 census of Clatsop County, but Maria Miller was living with Edward Taylor and his family on Clatsop Plains.

The agricultural schedule of the 1870 census shows that Charles J. Newman had four improved acres and 156 woodland acres, valued together at \$800. He had farm implements and machinery valued at \$40, two horses and two (beef) cattle valued at \$80.

In 1872, Newman's personal property was assessed at \$200 for which he paid 40 cents school tax, \$1.10 state tax, and \$2.20 county tax, for a total tax of \$3.70. Again there was no assessment on real property.

### **Nehalem Valley Road Dispute**

The *Tri-Weekly Astorian* of August 9, 1873, printed the Circuit Court calendar which named Charles Newman and Henry Smith as defendants in a lawsuit brought by the State of Oregon. The two men were charged with injury to a road. Milton Elliott, brother-in-law to John Shively who was one of the earliest settlers in Astoria, represented Newman and Smith. Newman became involved in a dispute over placement of the road to Nehalem Valley which pitted William H. Gray against most of his neighbors. (See "A Road for the Nehalem Valley," by Joyce Simpson Morrell, in *Cumtux*, Vol. 10, No. 2, Spring 1990, pages 7-11.)

The incident involving Newman and Smith was explained in a portion of a letter to the editor of the Astoria news-

paper written by William H. Gray, the well-known historian and pioneer of 1836, and a principle in the case, printed on March 3, 1877:

#### **History of Roads**

##### **On Kamm's Farm**

"There is another item of county expenses connected with the roads across Mr. Kamm's farm which occurred in 1873. In a suit brought against W. H. Gray, C. Newman and H. Smith for alleged damages to what is called the upper landing road. Several persons who have signed all these road petitions were concerned in cutting a tree on Mr. Kamm's land, falling it across the road and creek, to dam up the water and turn it to damage the farm. W. H. Gray, as Mr. Kamm's agent, had it cut out of the creek so as not to injure the farm, for which he, Newman and Smith were arrested, taken before H. B. Parker, Justice of the Peace, tried, and fined — Gray \$75, Newman and Smith \$25 each. On appeal to the Circuit Court the county paid the cost."

Newman was to spend not less than ten days nor more than twenty days in jail. The judgement roll shows that in the case of the State of Oregon versus Charles Newman, the judgement was overturned on the basis of a technicality.

##### **Worked for William H. Gray**

On September 20, 1876, Charles Newman sold all of his stock for \$200 to Alex Corno, which included one yoke of oxen, two cows and calves, three head of young stock and all the hay in his barn. Two and a half years later, for \$100, he sold to E. M. Swanson all the improvements on the claim that he had owned near the north fork of the Klaskanine River, in the northeast quarters of the northeast quarter of Section 13, Township 7, Range 9. This was near the farms of Jacob Kamm and Chris Peterson. Newman continued to work off and on for William H. Gray.



### **Life on the Kamm Farm**

A newspaper article from June 13, 1879, written by David Newsome, describes the "idyllic" life on the Kamm farm managed by William H. Gray:

"I examined the meadows, seventy-five acres, and find the grass very rank, though run continuously for eight years. The hill lands on this tract are used for his cattle, horses and a flock of superior south down sheep, which are healthy and fat. Sheds and buildings are in different enclosures for use ... the Olney post office is here, Mrs. M. A. Gray, post mistress. Here then secluded from the turmoils of public life and its excitement, dwell this worthy family in peace and plenty. Four China boys, and two trusty white men carry on the farm in its different departments; while the wife of one of the white men on the farm assists Mrs. Gray in the household affairs. I have never seen a more charming rural retreat than this is. Surrounded by every earthly comfort and ample wealth."

Newman was one of the trusty white men referred to and is numbered among the residents of this farm on the 1880 federal census. Newman was listed as a married 50-year-old farmer, without a family. Others living on this farm (owned by Gray's son-in-law, Jacob Kamm, and managed by Gray) were five Chinese men: Gu Tong, Wat Tai, Gung Ah, Slicowy Tooe, and Fon Chung. Also: William Handley, born in Scotland and Christian Peterson, born in Denmark. This was one of the best kept farms in the county and was located on the Klaskanine River and between the present-day Green Mountain Road and Saddle Mountain Road. Charles Newman's work probably contributed substantially to such a successful farm.

The setting and improvements may have been "idyllic," but working for William H. Gray may have been difficult at times. Gray was accused by his neigh-

bors of refusing to sell beef, allow the use of his landing, or hire those who disagreed with his ideas in regard to the road. However, Newman was kept on as a worker although three years earlier (in March, 1877) he had added his name to a list of Gray's neighbors including Israel Kallio, Alex Corno, Indian George Oakchier, B. A. Seaborg and twenty-one others, protesting Gray's efforts to prevent the road to the Nehalem Valley from being built.

### **Newman's 1883 Homestead**

In April of 1883, Charles J. Newman settled on 160 acres of land on the Klaskanine River southeast of his earlier claim, described as being on the south half of the northeast quarter and the north half of the southeast quarter of Section 32, Township 7, Range 8. On October 23, 1883, he made a formal application for the homestead claim. Six years later he proved up on his claim and was issued homestead certificate No. 2735, dated May 15, 1889.

### **Second Marriage**

According to Sylvia Mattson, her father, John Niemela, a neighbor of Newman's, said that Charles Newman for so many years had no companions who spoke Finnish and as a result, he could not speak Finnish any more. On October 18, 1892 he was married to Mary Markkola at Olney, Oregon by N. H. Hilleary, a Justice of the Peace. Mary Markkola was the mother-in-law of the niece of his neighbor, Israel Kallio. She spoke only Finnish and could not speak English. John Niemela found this situation quite humorous.

### **Lost His Home**

It was about this time that Charles Newman made a friend of a man named John Ryan, which proved disastrous to Newman. Ryan needed money for some project and decided to borrow it from Israel Kallio. Newman acted as co-signer. When the note was due, New-

man and Ryan arrived at Kallio's home and Ryan paid Kallio the money he owed. Ryan then asked for another loan. But Ryan failed to repay it this time. Charles Newman later testified that he refused to act as co-signer again, and left the house. The court did not accept Newman's statement and claimed Charles Newman's property which was put up for sale and sold to B. A. Seaborg, the well-known cannery owner and fellow Finn. All of this proved to be a surprise to Newman. He protested to the court in November 1896, that he was of foreign birth and could not read English and that he had been sick and unable to attend to business and did not know about this action until told that his home was to be sold. Newman later borrowed money from Seaborg, and perhaps in this manner his property was restored — the record is not clear.

#### **Newman's Final Years**

In 1892, at the age of 63, Charles Newman applied for a military pension stating that he was partially disabled because of a lame back, rheumatism and a tumor on his stomach. He was found eligible for aid and received a pension that year of six dollars a month. In 1898 he was examined by Dr. O. B. Estes of Astoria, who found Newman's disability had increased.

When his ailments required immediate care during his final illness in 1907, Charles Newman was nursed by Josephine Olson in her home, which was also the Olney post office. Also attending him was Oscar Lonquist, a long-time acquaintance, who helped dress Newman's body after he died there on June 21, 1907. He was then buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

#### **Mary Markkola Newman**

Charles Newman's wife, Mary Markkola Newman (born June 4, 1845) came from Finland in 1892 and was married later that year on October 18th in Astoria

when she was 37 years old and Newman was 63.

Michael Riihela, who died sometime in the 1870s in Finland, was the father of William Markkola, one of her two children born in Finland. A long-time friend of hers was Venla Kiiski who was living in Astoria in 1920 and had known Mary Newman since they both lived at Kotka, Finland in 1854. Their friendship continued after both had come to the United States. Solomon Johnson was another friend from childhood at Kotka, Finland who had known her for 45 years in 1920.

In 1910, Mary was living with her son, William and family. After Charles J. Newman died in 1907, she applied for a widow's pension but it took years of paperwork. Assisted by Enoch E. Mathison of Astoria, she was finally awarded a widow's pension on April 17, 1920 of \$25 a month and back pay from 1916. This was later increased to \$40 a month. Mary Newman died on March 12, 1931 at the age of 85, and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

#### **John Newman**

John Newman was the brother of Charles Newman and was born in Liminka, Finland in June of 1833 (according to his obituary). He came to the United States in 1890. He was first married to Briita Kaisa Mananen (born 1834 in Liminka), and second to Mary Hakala, his Olney neighbor, in June 1896. He proved up on his homestead claim in March 1898, and in 1900 was working as a logger (the 1915 Heald Map and Directory listed John Nyman as owning 142.49 acres in Section 6, Township 6 North, Range 8 West, valued at \$552). A fire destroyed his house in January, 1917. He died two months later, on March 11, 1917.

John's obituary stated that his only known relative was a daughter, Sophie Adolph of Olney. Sofie was born in Finland in 1878, and married Gust Adolph



in 1904. Her three sons (all deceased now) were Nels G., Harold Toivo, and Aron Eugene. Sofie and her three sons are buried in the Lewis and Clark Cemetery. A daughter still survives.

#### **Robert Newman**

Another brother of Charles J. Newman may have been Robert Newman who applied for a homestead on the same day as Israel Kallio, May 22, 1877, and in the same area, Section 30, Township 7, Range 8, near Green Mountain on the Klaskanine River. His claim was cancelled in 1880. Robert Newman declared his intent to become a citizen on May 19, 1877.

#### **Charles Adolph Newman**

Charles Adolph Newman who was born in Kemi, Finland in 1881, was a nephew of Charles J. Newman. His daughter, Violet married Harold Brown and they lived in Oakland, California. Some other Finns in Clatsop County with the Newman/Nyman names may also be related to Charles J. Newman.

#### **William Markkola Family**

Michael William Markkola, the son of Mary Markkola and Michael Riihela, was born in Finland in 1867. According to his son, Art Markkola, he came to Astoria on a sailing ship, having traveled first to South America. He made several return trips to Finland. He declared his intent to become a citizen in Astoria on October 12, 1889, and was naturalized on August 22, 1900, when he was working as a fisherman. In 1904, he married Lisi Pollman (Ballman) in Clatsop County. The 1915 Heald Map and Directory shows he owned 150 acres in Section 7, Township 6 North, Range 8 West, three of four miles northwest of Saddle Mountain. His neighbors were the Adolphins and Newmans who were related by marriage, and Otto Johanson, Axel and Gustaf Lindberg, and Asmus Marxen. William Markkola died in 1946.

His wife, Lisi Pollman Markkola was

born at Isokyro, Vaasalaani, Finland on January 27, 1871, the daughter of Herman Pollman and Elise Kallio. At the age of 25 she came to Oregon to work as a cook for her uncle, Israel Kallio. She and her brother, Jack (Jacob) Ballman attended school in Finland where he had been in the army. Jack was born on September 1, 1884. When he came to Astoria he worked as a blacksmith, in the canneries, and had a taxi service. He died on January 12, 1943. For several years Lisi lived in the Green Mountain area, then moved to the Saddle Mountain district. She died at her home on June 21, 1946.

Through the help of Floyd Coons and the hospitality of the Lonquists, I was invited to visit Art Markkola, the only son of William and Lisi Markkola, who lives with Kenneth Lonquist and his wife Jeannette Nelson Lonquist in the Olney area, and is now enjoying his recent retirement. Kenneth Lonquist is the grandson of Oscar Lonquist who helped to care for Charles J. Newman during his final illness. (Art Markkola's reminiscences about the history of Saddle Mountain, Green Mountain and Olney areas are worthy of a later article). William and Lisi Markkola had four children. Arthur Markkola was born September 14, 1905, in Astoria. Art's whole life was spent farming on the Markkola homestead, except the World War II years when he served in the U. S. Army. Mary Alma was born in 1907. Elvira (Sarah) was born in 1908-09, now Mrs. McConnell who lives with her daughter Louise in Pittsburg, California, and has another daughter, Helen who lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Emma Markkola was born in 1910.

#### **Israel Kallio**

Israel Kallio, the neighbor and friend of Charles J. Newman, was born in Isokyro, Finland on July 14, 1847, and at the age of 25 in 1872, went to Titusville, Pennsylvania where he worked on the

railroad. The next year he came to Astoria. For about two years he engaged in gillnet fishing. He applied for a homestead of 80 acres on May 22, 1877, on the Klaskanine River in the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 30, Township 7, Range 8 and also the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of the same section. He made his final proof on October 23, 1883, receiving homestead certificate No. 1736. On the same day he applied for an additional 78.21 acres in lots 2 and 3, Section 32, in the same Township. During his years of farming, a pair of oxen provided the means of power and were used until he retired at an advanced age. He read avidly in an attempt to fill the lonely hours in his isolated location. He was naturalized on February 26, 1886 at Astoria. For a number of years he lived in a house on the farm of the Markkola's. Israel Kallio died on March 23, 1938 at Olney and was buried at Greenwood, the same cemetery where rests the first Clatsop County Finn, Charles J. Newman.

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- Note: (APL) = Astoria Public Library;  
(CCC) = Clatsop County Courthouse.  
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*Tri-Weekly Astorian*, 9Aug1873

Conversations with Art Markkola, Sylvia Mattson and Gib Marxen.

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### 1933 Swap Day Parade (Right)

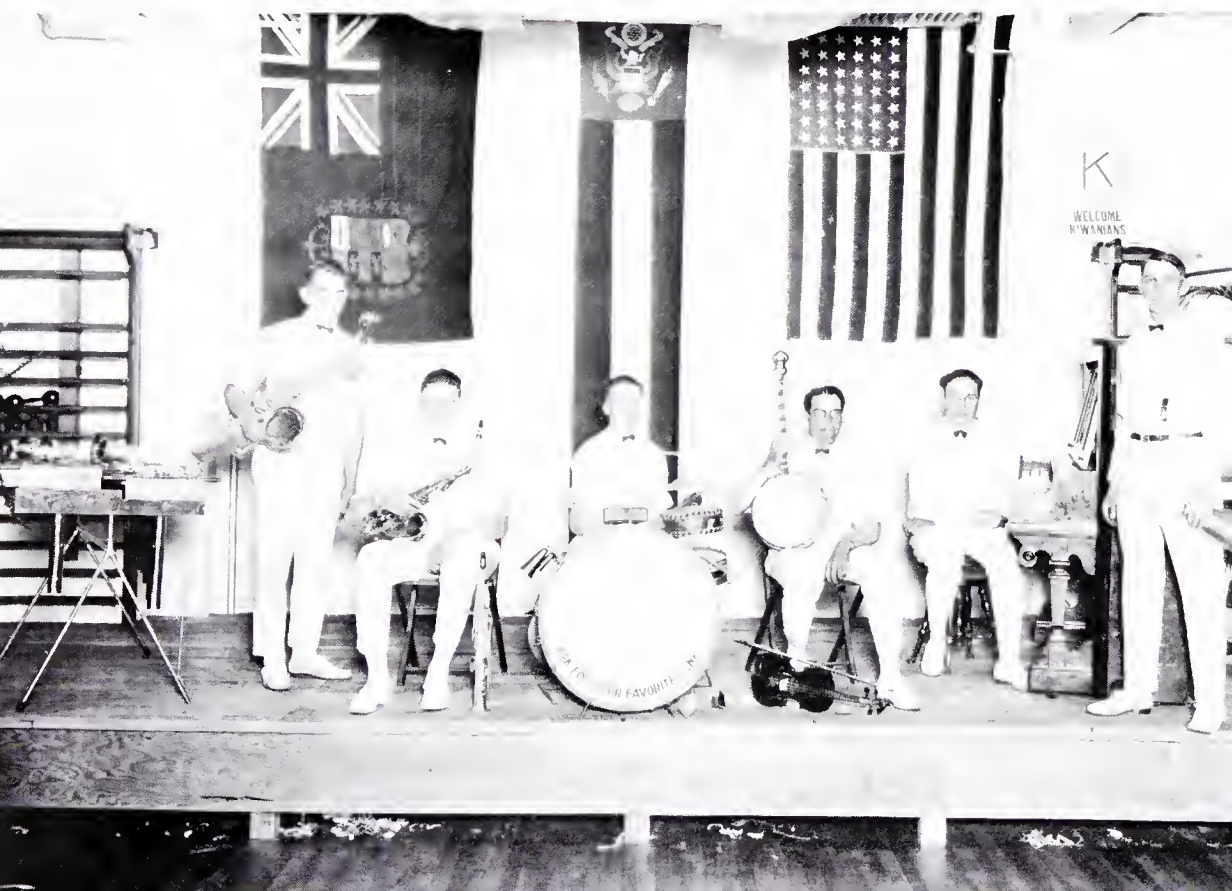
Swap Day celebrated the reopening of Astoria's banks on March 15, 1933. The "Masked Marvel" (Art Strand of Seaview, Washington) rode in the Parker House carriage with Cobban's Orchestra. The procession went to each of Astoria's three banks for a serenade in honor of their reopening, visited the county courthouse and Astoria city hall, and made calls at business houses in every part of town. The bartering was conducted in the Fellman building. E. H. Wright and Major Morgan auctioned off "every conceivable thing used by humans," one item traded for another.

George LeRoy Cobban (15Jun1889-5Sep1960) taught music in Astoria for many years. Among the groups the Cobban family organized were the Gibson Mandolin Club (1919), Walluski Grange Orchestra (1928) and Astoria High School orchestra (1933).





(Above) Swap Day parade on March 15, 1933 when Astoria's three banks reopened (note sign on the Fisher Bros. truck). Riding the Parker House carriage was Cobban's Orchestra: George Cobban, banjo; Bob Cobban, saxophone; Ed Waisanen, trombone; Eino Koskela, trumpet and John Thomas, drums. (CCHS photo #3969-140)  
 (Below) Cobban's Dance Orchestra. (CCHS photo #1968-147)





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for the  
Holidays and the New Year*

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